Reviving MBBS curriculum

390. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to devise a new MBBS curriculum that is more rural based;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to make rural training for one or two years after the house-surgeon training compulsory for medical graduates;

(d) if so, the details in regard thereto; and

(e) by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Government has constituted a Task Force on Medical Education for the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under the Chairmanship of Ex-Union Health Secretary. This Task Force is required to suggest amongst others modification in MBBS curriculum and measures as to how rural services can be made attractive for MBBS doctors alongwith other possibilities of proving Health care in rural and under served areas, the Task Force is expected to submit its report shortly.

Decline in AIDS deaths due to cheaper drugs

391. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deaths and percentage of deaths attributable to AIDS have considerably declined since 1997, with the availability of cheaper drugs in India;

(b) if so, the number and percentage of such deaths during these years; year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken further for making these drugs available to the poor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The number of AIDS cases and deaths reported during the last 3 years is as under. Further it is difficult to comment on the decline following the availability of cheaper drugs in India as GoI initiated the free ART programme from April, 2004.

Year	AIDS Cases Reported	AIDS Deaths Reported
1997	1984	Not available
1998	1597	Not available
1999	3325	1875*
2000	8578	471
2001	13639	1039
2002	19077	1247
2003	21587	1541
2004	27432	1324

*Cumulative number upto 1999

(c) It is proposed to establish 100 centres in the country by the end of this financial year. Excise duty has also been exempted on 10 ARY drugs. At present 40 hospitals are providing free ART services to about 15000 patients.

Pending Medical Bills

392. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 565 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 2005 and state:

(a) the exact amount of pending bills of each private hospital approved by C.G.H.S. which was outstanding as on the 1st August, 2005;